

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 32

2 INTRODUCED BY HAINES, ANDERSEN, BALYEAT, BARRETT, BOOKOUT-REINICKE, E. CLARK,
 3 DEVLIN, EVERETT, FISHER, FUCHS, HEDGES, HURWITZ, JACKSON, LAKE, LAMBERT, LANGE,
 4 LASZLOFFY, LEHMAN, LEWIS, MAEDJE, MENDENHALL, MOOD, MORGAN, A. OLSON, B. OLSON,
 5 PATTISON, PETERSON, RICE, RIPLEY, ROBERTS, ROME, ROSS, SALES, SCHRUMPF, SINRUD,
 6 STEINBEISSER, STOKER, B. THOMAS, WAGMAN, WITT

7
 8 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
 9 MONTANA REQUESTING THAT THE GOVERNOR, THE MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, AND
 10 THE U.S. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR SEEK THE IMMEDIATE ~~REMOVAL~~ DELISTING OF THE GRAY
 11 WOLF ~~FROM THE ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST~~ AND THE RETURN OF CONTROL OF THE WOLF TO THE
 12 STATE; URGING MONTANA OFFICIALS TO ACTIVELY PURSUE THE DELISTING EFFORT ON TERMS
 13 FAVORABLE TO MONTANA AND RECOMMENDING CERTAIN SPECIFIC TERMS FOR DELISTING; AND
 14 URGING THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO JOIN THE STATE IN ANY LEGAL ACTION BROUGHT TO
 15 BLOCK THE WOLF DELISTING PROCESS.

16
 17 WHEREAS, the gray wolf has been ~~declared~~ PROTECTED by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ~~to be an~~
 18 ~~endangered species~~ UNDER THE FEDERAL ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT, notwithstanding plentiful numbers of wolves
 19 in Alaska and Canada; and

20 WHEREAS, because of the protection afforded by the ~~endangered species designation~~ ENDANGERED
 21 SPECIES ACT, gray wolves have been reintroduced into and have become reestablished in Montana; and

22 WHEREAS, estimates of current Montana wolf population numbers vary from ~~200 to 1,000~~ 250 TO 300
 23 wolves; and

24 WHEREAS, professional biological wolf studies in Alaska, Minnesota, and Canada have found that as
 25 long as wolves have prey animals to feed upon, ~~uncontrolled~~ wolf populations ~~will~~ MAY expand at a rate of UP
 26 TO 34% or more a year; and

27 WHEREAS, this studied rate of wolf population growth is consistent with wolf population expansion
 28 observed in Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming; and

29 WHEREAS, wolves in Montana currently feed primarily on elk and disproportionately on young
 30 replacement elk born in the spring of each year; and

1 WHEREAS, ~~with elk composing about~~ MAY COMPOSE UP TO 80% of a wolf's diet, ~~it is estimated that each~~
2 ~~wolf will kill between 60 and 100 elk each year; and~~

3 WHEREAS, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks estimates that there are about 94,000
4 elk in Montana; and

5 WHEREAS, given the documented rate of uncontrolled wolf population expansion, the expected
6 consumption rate of elk by wolves, and the limited supply of elk in Montana, it is reasonable to project
7 devastation of Montana elk herds by wolves ~~within the next few years~~ if the expansion of wolf populations is not
8 aggressively controlled very soon; and

9 WHEREAS, unchecked predation by wolves will ~~almost certainly bring an end to elk hunting by~~ REDUCE
10 HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR the people of Montana ~~and will subsequently impact other wildlife resources,~~
11 ~~livestock, pets, and outdoor recreation; and~~

12 WHEREAS, in addition to impacting Montana's long heritage and culture of hunting, these negative
13 impacts will also have a profound economic consequence for Montana people and communities.

14
15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
16 THE STATE OF MONTANA:

17 That the Governor, the Montana Congressional Delegation, and the U.S. Secretary of the Interior be
18 strongly urged to aggressively seek the immediate ~~removal~~ DELISTING of the gray wolf ~~from the endangered~~
19 ~~species list~~ and the complete return of control over and management of wolves in Montana to Montana.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Montana resist federal pressure to accept wolf delisting on terms
21 unfavorable to Montana and that the Governor and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks be
22 urged not to accept wolf delisting unless the terms of delisting are favorable to Montana and include:

23 (1) funding for wolf management from federal sources;

24 (2) a definition of "breeding pair" that includes only one breeding male and one breeding female of any
25 wolf pack and their single litter of pups under 6 months of age; and

26 (3) complete abandonment of federal enforcement authority over wolves.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if any wolf delisting opponent files a lawsuit to block or restrict any
28 planned or actual delisting of wolves by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Montana Attorney General be
29 urged to immediately join the state in that lawsuit to vigorously protect the interests of Montana in gaining wolf
30 delisting.

